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General and complete disarmament: nuclear disarmament

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Note verbale dated 12 September 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to transmit herewith the letter of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, to the Secretary-General concerning the intention of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty at the earliest time and the hope to take part in the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, from 25 to 27 September 2001, as a full member of the treaty (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations requests that the present note and the annex thereto be circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly under items 85 (r) and 93 of the provisional agenda.

* A/56/150.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 12 September 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

First of all, let me thank you for your tireless attention to the issues concerning the strengthening of peace and stability in the world, in particular, to the issues of disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

I share your opinion that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has become the most significant step that the international community has made on the way towards a nuclear-weapons-free world. The importance of the Treaty in developing the nuclear disarmament process, strengthening stability in a global context and creating an effective mechanism of international security cannot be overestimated.

The signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by the five nuclear States and the overwhelming support of the majority of States in the world to the Treaty demonstrate an effort on the part of the international community aimed at creating the necessary preconditions for establishing a new world order, in which States will no longer tolerate nuclear tests. The implementation of the provisions of the Treaty makes it possible to leave behind once and for all the legacy of the cold war era, disaster areas caused by nuclear tests and the irreparable damage to the environment and health of thousands of people caused by radiation.

For historical reasons, the problems related to the tests of weapons of mass destruction have special meaning for Kazakhstan. Having voluntarily renounced the presence of nuclear weapons in its territory, being an active participant in international non-proliferation regimes, Kazakhstan has continued the peaceful course it has chosen from the very beginning of its independence.

Having signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in September 1996, Kazakhstan in practice participates in improving the effectiveness of controlling observance of Treaty provisions. Kazakhstan's seismic stations, composing part of the international monitoring system, contribute to creating an effective verification regime within the framework of the Treaty.

Following our position in the non-proliferation sphere, based on recognition of the need to strengthen the non-proliferation regime, Kazakhstan favours the immediate coming into force of the Treaty. It is pleasing to realize that the majority of countries share our vision of the Treaty's importance, which is confirmed by the ever-increasing number of States which have signed and ratified the Treaty.

On its side, Kazakhstan has almost fully completed preparatory procedures required for the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We count on the ratification of the Treaty by the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the earliest time and hope that Kazakhstan will take part in the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty from 25 to 27 September 2001 as a full member of the Treaty. This will once again reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of non-proliferation and disarmament and a more stable and safer world in the new century.

Nursultan **Nazarbayev**
President of the Republic of Kazakhstan